

that the figure shown on that drawing sheet labeled Fig. 4 is a top and side view of the same assembly. Applicant respectfully requests to split such top and side view thereby making the top view Fig. 4A and the side view Fig. 4B, appropriate correction then being necessary in the brief description of the drawings portion of the specification. Enclosed herewith is a replacement drawing of Fig. 4, now Figs. 4A and 4B, marked in red ink. Applicant respectfully requests the drawing objection to be withdrawn.

The specification is objected to because a brief drawing description has not been provided for Figs. 8A and 8B. Applicant has amended the disclosure to provide for a brief drawing description of Figs. 8A and 8B.

Claim 20 stands objected to and has been appropriately amended. Applicant respectfully requests the rejection to Claim 20 to be withdrawn.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter of Claims 4-15 and 17.

Further, Claims 1-3, 14, 16, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hayashi. Please cancel Claims 1-3, 18, 20 and 21 without prejudice. Applicant will be filing a continuation application directed to such subject matter. Applicant is desirous of having the currently allowable claims be issued as soon as possible for business reasons.

Applicant has amended Claims 4 and 16 into independent format.

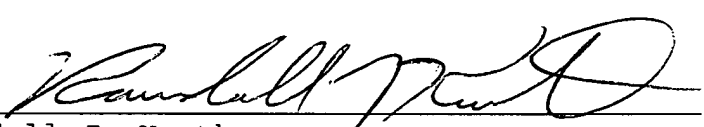
Applicant encloses a check in the amount of Forty Two Dollars (\$42) for the additional one extra independent claim. Further, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required and credit any overpayments to:

RANDALL J. KNUTH, P.C. - Account Number 501157

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw all objections and rejections and forward a Notice of Allowability to the undersigned.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments that would speed prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 219/485-6001.

Respectfully submitted,


Randall J. Knuth
Registration No. 34,644

RJK/td

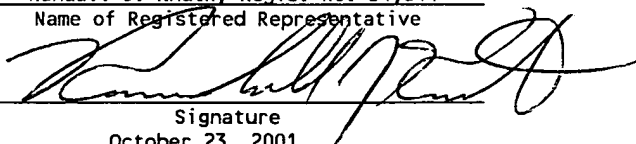
Encs: Marked-Up Claims
Replacement Claims
Marked-Up Specification
Replacement Specification
Fig. 4A & 4B
Petition for Extension
of Time
Check 5601 (\$502)
Return Postcard

RANDALL J. KNUTH, P.C.
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Fort Wayne, IN 46815-4631
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on: October 23, 2001.

Randall J. Knuth, Regis. No. 34,644
Name of Registered Representative


Signature
October 23, 2001
Date